The Legislative Chamber.

260. * MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) when the foundation stone of the New Legislative Chamber was laid; and

(*b*) how far the work has progressed?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (*a*) 12th December 1933.

(*b*) The design and estimate for the Chamber have been prepared. Tenders were called for and have been received; but the contract is not yet settled.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know the reasons for this long delay in coming to a settlement of the tenders?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Tenders were received on the 25th February. They were tabulated and submitted to Government with certain recommendations.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know whether there has been any alteration in the plan?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): No material alteration.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Are there many tenderers?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know whether the Government have accepted the principle of giving preference to the sons of the soil in giving the work?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes, in a general sense.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know whether there is stipulation in the contract to the effect that the work must be completed within a specified period?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Yes.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know how many tenders were received?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Eleven.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): Who is the lowest tenderer?

PRESIDENT: The member cannot ask those details now.

MR. K. M. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha II*): What is the estimate for the construction of the Legislative Chamber?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Two lakhs of rupees.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): What is the cause of the delay in calling forth tenders?

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MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Plans had to be made.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether they were made by the contractors in the department?

MR. G. B. E TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): No.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Are the Government aware that Travancore contractors are far superior in point of ability to outside contractors?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): Perhaps that is the opinion of Mr. S. J. Nair.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware that the Jagathy bridge, which was undertaken by a foreign contractor, still remains incomplete?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): It has been completed.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): How long did it take for the foreign contractor to complete it?

MR. C. V. CHANDRASEKHARAN (*Ag. Director of Public Instruction*): On a point of Order. Jagathy bridge does not seem to have any particular reference to this question.

PRESIDENT: Mr. S. J. Nair sometimes travels from China to Peru. (*Laughter*)

Minor irrigation work in the Neyyattinkara Taluk.

261. *MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether any amount has been allotted for minor irrigation work in the Neyyattinkara taluk for the current year (1111); and

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative,—

(i) the amount allotted;

(ii) the amount expended; and

(iii) the works undertaken this year (1111)?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) (i) Rs. 19,068.

(ii) Rs. 2,152 to end of 7/1111.

(iii) A list is laid on the table.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know the number of tanks in the Neyyattinkara taluk?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): I am sorry, I cannot answer this question.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): Can the Chief Engineer tell me the number of tanks that are in disrepair and in a totally neglected condition?

MR. G. B. E. TRUSCOTT (*Chief Engineer, Roads, Buildings and Irrigation*): The member must know it better.

MR. T. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara II*): May I know the number of tanks that are silted up?

Vide Appendix I.

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